AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The following is a complete, marked up listing of the amended paragraphs of the Specification with underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

[0041] Copper can take on the cuprous Cu^{+} and cupric Cu^{2+} oxidation states. The cupric compounds of the invention are represented by formula I:

$$CuA_xB_y \qquad (I)$$

where A and B are anions,

$0 \leq x \leq 2$, and

$0 \leq y \leq 2$.

The relationship between x and y is further clarified by Equation II:

$$mx + ny = 2 \qquad (II)$$

where m and n are coefficients equal to oxidation numbers of the anions A and B, respectively. An alternative general formula encompassing cupric compounds according to the invention that contain one or more copper atoms may be represented by formula III:

$$Cu_zA_xB_y \qquad (III)$$

wherein z is an integer greater or equal to 1, A is an anion having an oxidation number m and x is an integer greater than 0; B is an anion having an oxidation number n and y is an integer that is greater than or equal to 0; and the relationship defined by Equation IV is satisfied:

$$mx + ny = 2z \qquad (IV).$$

[0042] The anion A can be Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, F^-, NO_3^- SO_4^{2-}, PO_4^{3-} or $RCOO^-$ where R is H or a C_1-C_{20} straight chain or branched hydrocarbon such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, isopentyl, etc. R can also an aromatic group such as benzyl, tolyl, naphthyl, etc. The anion A can also be an anion of an organic acid such as $tartrate^{2-}$, $citrate^{3-}$ or an amino acid residue such as ~~metyonine~~ methionine residue.

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